

conomic depression, the plan of having one or more conferences on ways and means to hold down public health expenditures should be given very serious consideration. As stated before such efforts have been made in Los Angeles city and county during the last several years. It will be interesting to note whether any progress in these important public health and civic matters will be possible.

* * *

Initial Conferences Will Be Commenced.—After the above was written, the following item appeared in the Los Angeles newspapers:

"To coöperate with a special committee named by county officials to eliminate overlapping services between the county and city, the city health board yesterday selected three business men as its representatives."

The Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County probably will appoint a similar conference committee. It is to be hoped that if real conferences for consolidation of the departments are in mind or are undertaken, at least one member of the medical profession will be appointed to each of the conference committees, because otherwise important public health policies might be decided by conference committees of laymen who, being in the majority, would be distinguished not by how much, but perhaps by how little they really know of the relative value and importance of different phases of public health work. Or, to put it otherwise, while public health work should be carried on along lines of real economy, in the decision as to where such economies may be best effected, the advice of citizens who have a medical background and knowledge could be of great value. It is hoped that these initial efforts for elimination of duplication work in milk inspection and so on will lead to a real survey of these two public health departments which have annual expenditures exceeding those of many states in the Union.

PURE FOOD LAWS—MILK: BOTH RAW AND PASTEURIZED

Pure Food and Drug Laws Inaugurated Twenty-five Years Ago.—Twenty-five years ago, Wiley and others who had been carrying on a campaign to educate the citizens of the United States on the importance of protection of food supplies, saw some of their efforts to better safeguard the public health finally meet with success. The national pure food and drug law which then came into being made it possible for virtually the first time to maintain some semblance of control over the production and distribution of foodstuffs; at least as regards foods and drugs distributed under interstate conditions. Not the least of the legal regulations which were at that time brought into being, were those dealing with "misbranding" of foods and drugs.

The passage of that national food and drug law and the subsequent adoption of its essential provisions by most of the states of the Union, permitted public health departments from one end

of the country to the other to maintain at least a nominal supervision over foodstuffs and drugs; which otherwise, in adulterated or misbranded form, could become serious menaces to the health of the people.

* * *

Difficulties of Enforcement of Pure Food Laws.—The original laws of twenty-five or so years ago represented a big advance on what existed at that time. With increasing knowledge and experience, those laws should have been amended to make them more capable of dealing with the legal and other complexities which constantly arose when attempts were made to enforce the provisions of the various acts. However, the selfish commercialism of some dealers—whose dominating thought was larger financial profits, without regard to the purity of their products or the deleterious effects of adulterated or below standard food products upon the public health—made difficult the enforcement of some of the laws; this because of the recourse to legal action and technicalities by some of such grasping food purveyors and distributors. Further, as such groups learned how modern day advertising and propaganda—no matter how far removed from the truth—could be used to exploit and increase the sales of their below standard products, they turned with increasing alacrity to all those quips and turns in legal procedures that would enable them to reap the largest possible amount of financial profit, regardless at what cost of health or happiness to others. Had it not been for the loyal support and high-minded coöperation of the maligned public health administrators, the struggle for adequate protection of the public health in these matters might almost have been in vain. The medical profession has reason to take pride in the very creditable part which its members, here and there, have played in the enforcement of the various national, state and local pure food laws.

* * *

"Certified Milk" Came Into Being About the Same Time.—About the same time that the present-day protection of manufactured food and drug products was inaugurated, there came into being what was practically a national attempt to place milk production and distribution on a more satisfactory basis. One of the educational elements that exercised a tremendous influence in providing better safeguards in the production and distribution of milk, was the happy thought of Dr. Henry Coit of Newark, New Jersey, in copyrighting the term "Certified Milk" and in outlining the conditions under which and by whom that term could be used. In Coit's plan, the production of a pure raw and uncontaminated raw milk, to be known as "certified milk" was to be under the supervision of milk commissions of county medical associations. In California, it is just about twenty-five years since the Milk Commission of the San Francisco County Medical Association and the Milk Commission of the Los Angeles County Medical Association came into being.

Those Commissions have never lapsed in their efforts to place pure milk at the disposal of the citizens of their districts.

About the same time, the Dairy Division of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry brought out one of its first score cards to be used in the grading of dairies. The writer, as secretary of the Los Angeles Commission, well remembers the early efforts of the members of that Commission to score not only their one certified dairy of that period, but also other non-certified dairies, whose owners they were trying to educate on how cows should be housed, fed, cleaned and milked, how the milk should be handled, cared for and distributed, and by whom. Since that day, state, county and municipal laws have been enacted that in good part place the responsibility of the production and distribution of milk on the executives of the various state and local health departments.

As time went on, California deemed it proper to provide that all natural milk sold within the state should be either raw or pasteurized. For a quite lengthy period, there was considerable opposition to a pasteurized milk on the grounds that it was not so desirable as a foodstuff for infants and children, and because it might make "dirty milk" presumably safe. The prejudice against pasteurized milk has largely subsided and as regards contaminated milk, the modern inspection methods of state, counties and cities, hold the production of such contaminated milk down to a minimum.

* * *

California Has Three Types of Raw Milk.—California permits the production, distribution and sale of three types of raw milk: certified, guaranteed raw, and grade A raw milk.

It has been stated that only fifteen per cent of the milk distributed in Los Angeles city is raw milk, all the remaining milk being pasteurized milk. This raw milk includes all certified, guaranteed raw and grade A raw milk.

During the last several years the certified dairies have been making very strenuous efforts to do away with the possibility of undulant fever in their herds, and this effort has been in good part successful. Figures which have been brought forward would indicate that there has been an increase of something like 500 per cent in undulant fever in general dairy herds of Los Angeles County during the last four years.

It is not necessary to discuss the great precautions which surround the production of the raw milk known as "certified." It is regrettable that the extra care in the production of certified milk necessitates a distinctly higher selling price than that of other milks, but that is a something that cannot be overcome.

* * *

Shall "Guaranteed Raw" and "Grade A Raw" Milk Be Discontinued?—The interesting question concerning "guaranteed raw" and "grade A raw" milk which confronts the dairy industry, the medical profession and the lay public is whether or not these two types of raw milk should continue to

have legal state sanction. The argument has been brought forward that these two types of raw milk are in one sense imitators of certified raw milk, without having the same meticulous supervision in production and distribution. Or as has been stated, these two types of raw milk aim to capitalize for financial advantage, the prestige of a special grade of milk known as "certified."

There is a strong group of public health officers who contend that the state milk law of California should be amended so that all milk produced and distributed in California, except "certified milk," should be pasteurized. In other words, that the raw milk grade, known as "guaranteed raw" and "grade A" should be discontinued. Such amendments will probably be presented at the next session of the California legislature. Because of the importance of milk as an essential foodstuff for infants and many invalids a very considerable interest will be maintained in these matters by many physicians.

Man Who Invented Thermometer Once Known as Bad Boy.—Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, the man who invented the mercury thermometer, and whose name has been perpetuated throughout the English-speaking world for the past two centuries in connection with that invention, was apparently a typical Peck's bad boy and a typical "rounder," in his youth.

This fact is indicated by a letter dated January 21, 1707, which was recently found in the archives of the city of Danzig, Germany.

According to the letter, young Fahrenheit, at the age of 21, was causing his guardians so much trouble and was so incorrigible that the city council was requested to aid in shipping him away to the Dutch East Indies. Luckily the plan was not successful.

The letter, which was addressed to the burgomaster and the honorable gentlemen of the Danzig town council, reads as follows:

"We, who have been named as the guardians of the minor children of the late Daniel Fahrenheit, have sent his son, Daniel Gabriel, a minor, to Amsterdam by his own consent, to serve in an office, in the hope he would learn to conduct himself properly. But things have gone badly with this minor; he has spent the money given him; and he has behaved himself regretably in other ways. So, in order to protect the interests of his brothers and sisters, we have been obliged to sequester part of his capital, and have requested him through his patron to turn a new leaf.

"But he has paid no heed, he has resumed his former practices, so we have been put to not a little trouble and pains to try to bring about a change for the better in his mode of life, but without being able to do anything with him. We finally, on his own representation, decided to have him sent to the East Indies, for which purpose we dispatched him to Amsterdam a few weeks ago and sent order to a certain merchant (firm) by the name of Johannes Droog-enhorst and Son to help him to a place with the East India Company, which was done. But when the time came for him to present himself, he failed to appear, and according to a report that has come in he has gone to the bad again, and resumed his former way of life. Because we can see nothing ahead for him except destruction and dire ruin to his temporal well-being, we guardians desire to report the situation to the honorable council, as his supreme guardians, hoping that the council with the help and advice of the authorities request—that we be authorized to send full powers issued under the seal of the town to the said Droog-enhorst and Son in Amsterdam, instructing them to locate him with the help of the authorities, place him under arrest, and send him to an appropriate place in the East Indies at the earliest opportunity."—*U. C. Clip Sheet.*